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SCRANTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING

HELD:

Thursday, March 14, 2013

LOCATION:

Council Chambers
Scranton City Hall
340 North Washington Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania

CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR - OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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CITY OF SCRANTON COUNCIL:

JANET EVANS, PRESIDENT

FRANK JOYCE, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCGOFF

PAT ROGAN

JOHN LOSCOMBE

NANCY KRAKE, CITY CLERK

JAMIE MARCIANO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK

BOYD HUGHES, SOLICITOR

1 (Pledge of Allegiance recited and
 2 moment of reflection observed.)
 3 MS. EVANS: Roll call, please.
 4 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.
 5 MR. MCGOFF: Here.
 6 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
 7 MR. ROGAN: Here.
 8 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.
 9 MR. LOSCOMBE: Here.
 10 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.
 11 MR. JOYCE: Here.
 12 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.
 13 MS. EVANS: Here. Dispense with the
 14 reading of the minutes, please.
 15 MS. KRAKE: 3-A. TAX ASSESSOR'S
 16 REPORT FOR HEARINGS HELD ON FEBRUARY 20,
 17 2013.
 18 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
 19 If not, received and filed.
 20 MS. KRAKE: 3-B. TAX ASSESSOR'S
 21 REPORT FOR APPEAL HEARINGS TO BE HELD ON
 22 MARCH 27, 2013.
 23 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
 24 If not, received and filed.
 25 MS. KRAKE: 3-C. MINUTES OF THE

1 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SCRANTON HOUSING
 2 AUTHORITY HELD ON FEBRUARY 4, 2013.
 3 MS. EVANS: Are there any comments?
 4 If not, received and filed. Do we have any
 5 clerk's notes tonight, Mrs Krake?
 6 MS. KRAKE: No, Mrs. Evans.
 7 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Do any
 8 council members have announcements at this
 9 time?
 10 The Lou Ruspi, Jr. Foundation and
 11 State Representative Frank Farina will
 12 conduct the first annual breakfast of hope
 13 on Sunday, March 17, 2013, beginning with
 14 registration at 9:30 a.m. at Rossi's
 15 Restaurant 1501 Main Street in Archbald.
 16 Tickets are \$17 for adults, \$12 for children
 17 age 4 to 12, and free for children three and
 18 under. Advance ticket purchase is highly
 19 recommended. Contact Carla Farina at
 20 570-687-3500 or Teresa Stan at 570-840-2680.
 21 The LRJ Foundation is dedicated to hope,
 22 guidance and education for suicide
 23 prevention and mental health awareness and
 24 supply schools in Lackawanna County, Wayne,
 25 and Pike Counties with educational teaching

1 packets on suicide prevention for staff and
 2 students. Please support this very worthy
 3 endeavor.
 4 The Fraternal Order of Eagles No.
 5 344 located at 493 Meridian Avenue in
 6 Scranton will conduct a purple day epilepsy
 7 benefit on March 23, 2013. The benefit
 8 includes a free health fair from 2 to 5 p.m.
 9 and a DJ from 5 to 8 p.m., and live music
 10 from Earthen from 8 to 11 p.m. A \$5
 11 donation is suggested. Tickets are
 12 available in advance or at the door. All
 13 proceeds benefit the Anita Foundation for
 14 the awareness of epilepsy and world purple
 15 day. For additional information call the
 16 club at 570-961-5495.
 17 Finally, I'd like to wish everyone a
 18 very happy and safe St. Patrick's Day as you
 19 celebrate this weekend. May your blessings
 20 outnumber the shamrocks that grow and may
 21 trouble avoid you wherever you go. That's
 22 it.
 23 MS. KRAKE: FOURTH ORDER. CITIZENS'
 24 PARTICIPATION.
 25 MS. EVANS: Our first speaker

1 tonight is Ron Ellman.
 2 MR. ELLMAN: Good evening, Council.
 3 I'll only bore you with three subjects
 4 tonight. I don't know if anybody saw this
 5 in the paper today, it's a notice from
 6 American Rock Salt Company to dump polluted
 7 water into the Lackawanna River and they are
 8 asking permission from the environmental
 9 protection. Here people's houses are being
 10 charged to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and
 11 they want to pollute the very water that we
 12 are being charged to clean up. Something
 13 has got to be done about this. I guess this
 14 is county and the state, but they can't be
 15 allowed to dump water in there. That's what
 16 this says. Would anyone want to read it?
 17 Thank you.
 18 Next, I went down today to get my
 19 dog license so they wouldn't arrest the poor
 20 guy and \$20 I think I paid more than Bill
 21 Young paid to keep that bar open for one
 22 day. Does anyone up there know what you
 23 have to go through to open up a bar in the
 24 first place? You got to have a lawyer, so
 25 there is that expense. You got to go

1 through all of these inspections, the
 2 bathrooms, the electrical, the water, you
 3 got to get your -- no matter whose name it
 4 is you have to surrender your liquor permit
 5 so you have to get that back out. There
 6 is weeks and weeks of involvement here.
 7 Now, I'm not complaining. You can't use
 8 your stock, you have to get new stock unless
 9 if you do it's not supposed to be used when
 10 it's a month old. All of costs and the
 11 license and insurance, they wouldn't have
 12 made enough money opening in one day to pay
 13 for everything, so I come to the conclusion
 14 that the city has prorated everything for
 15 them and I'm not against that. I have tried
 16 to get this done for years for people, you
 17 know, to sell at the food vendors and
 18 vendors at Nay Aug. They wouldn't prorate
 19 nothing.

20 Now, if the city, if Mr. Doherty has
 21 had a blind eye for this business to have
 22 everything prorated like that it's got to be
 23 done for the next person that walks up there
 24 and walks up there and wants to be open one
 25 or two days to sell tacos or car parts or

1 something. He has set a precedent now and
 2 it can't be -- it can't be no other way
 3 unless somebody wants to go after Farley's
 4 and make them pay all the back expenses that
 5 they didn't pay, which would be a fortune.
 6 You know, it's not going to be one way or
 7 another or we are going to be in Court again
 8 and this time we are going to lose like we
 9 always do. I got this from somebody that's
 10 been trying to get a vending permit
 11 prorated.

12 And I don't know how to say this
 13 next one, about a week ago I read in the
 14 paper, you know, I'm not against daydreams
 15 and all, but there was an article that said
 16 they want to make Scranton a high tech city.
 17 I don't know if anybody saw it, it was a big
 18 article, and bring in like the usual
 19 nonsense about the high paying jobs and all
 20 of the people that move in and fill up
 21 downtown, it's a bunch of daydreams.

22 You know, on the other end of the
 23 state there is a city called Pittsburgh and
 24 they have Carnegie-Mellon Institute there.
 25 I know you have -- for year after year for a

1 generation Pittsburgh has been the high tech
 2 capital of probably the whole world. There
 3 is nobody going to come to Scranton. That's
 4 like a couple of years ago they said they
 5 are going to run the train track from here
 6 to New York City and people will come here
 7 to shop. You know, things just aren't
 8 realistic no more when you talk to people in
 9 this administration and this city. There is
 10 just asinine ridiculous statements, you
 11 know. Again, I don't know what council can
 12 do it about this pollution into the
 13 Lackawanna River, but I only live a couple
 14 of blocks from there. I go down there every
 15 single morning, and this is ashame that
 16 there is ducks there now and people are
 17 fishing there now. There is still a sign
 18 that you can't eat the fish, but this cannot
 19 be allowed. This dumping polluted salt
 20 water in there.

21 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Ellman.

22 MR. ELLMAN: My time? I didn't hear
 23 my bell. Thank you, Mrs. Evans.

24 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Dawn
 25 Petroziello.

1 MS. PETROZIELLO: Hi, council.

2 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

3 MS. PETROZIELLO: Good evening. I
 4 recently became homeless and I'm a single
 5 parent or I was a single parent until
 6 yesterday, and I read this article in the
 7 paper that says, "Homeless program shares
 8 \$2.3 million" and shares it with whom?
 9 Doesn't share it with -- I don't know who it
 10 shares it with because it's not sharing to
 11 help me because I went to these agencies and
 12 they told me they can't help me. They will
 13 not help me.

14 And United Neighborhood Centers gets
 15 largest share amount of \$800,000? Well,
 16 they are the ones that said, "No, no, we are
 17 not helping you," so I don't know who they
 18 are sharing with. I don't know if they are
 19 sharing with themselves, to share to get a
 20 new car or to get an addition onto their
 21 house, but they are not sharing with the
 22 homeless, especially the single mothers.

23 Now, I know that I am not the only
 24 homeless single mother in this county. I
 25 know that. Now, Children and Youth came to

1 me and said, "Well, here's what we are going
2 to do, if you don't find one of your family
3 members to take your son then we are putting
4 him in foster care."

5 When I know other homeless mothers
6 who get to cope their children so why am I
7 being singled out? I had a residence until
8 yesterday, okay, and I was staying with a
9 friend and it was an indefinite situation.
10 I was able to stay there indefinitely. Now,
11 probation officer Alfredo Pizza apparently
12 does not -- because I'm distraction, that's
13 what he said, that's in my file that I'm a
14 distraction said that I could not live with
15 my friend and said that I had one hour to
16 get all of my stuff out of my friend's home
17 knowing that I'm a single parent, also
18 knowing that I would have nowhere to go with
19 my son.

20 Now, I receive public assistance,
21 I'm disabled. I can't work. I'm trying to
22 get disability and I haven't gotten it yet.
23 I can't -- I don't know what they are doing,
24 but they are not helping me either. I
25 receive public assistance. I don't know,

1 but can any of you, can I just have somebody
2 raise a hand and let me know being a single
3 parent can you raise your hand and tell me
4 if you can live on \$200 a month? Can
5 anybody? I didn't think so. No. No. But
6 that's what I'm supposed to live on and
7 provide a home, provide shelter, clothing,
8 miscellaneous things, what have you, for a
9 child and this is what the state expects of
10 me as a single parent without getting any
11 help from these agencies.

12 I thought CYS, I thought the
13 Children and Youth Services were supposed to
14 bring families together, keep the home
15 united. I didn't mow they were to supposed
16 to pull them apart.

17 Now, I don't know if guys could do
18 anything to help me, but, you know, I'm
19 scraping the bottom of a pudding cup. You
20 know what, scratch that. I don't even have
21 a pudding cup to scrape. I don't have a
22 pudding cup to scrape. It blew away last
23 night when I had to sleep outside in 22
24 degree weather.

25 And I know most people have, you

1 know, worse than I do and I'm a grateful,
2 grateful that my niece was able to take my
3 son and my son had a safe and warm place to
4 lay his head at night, and there are other,
5 you know, children and other, you know,
6 humans that have it worse than I do, but
7 like I don't see like how this homeless
8 program is helping the homeless because I'm
9 not getting help and I'm getting turned
10 airway.

11 And the only other thing I can say
12 is I'm the prettiest homeless girl that I
13 know. That's about it. So if you guys can
14 help I'd greatly appreciate it.

15 MS. EVANS: Mrs. Petroziello, would
16 there be any way of contacting you?

17 MS. PETROZIELLO: Yes, there is.

18 MS. EVANS: Can you leave that
19 information with --

20 MS. PETROZIELLO: Yes, I can.

21 MS. EVANS: -- with our clerk and I
22 think what I'd like to do is speak with
23 United Neighborhood Centers and see what the
24 problem is. The city itself, obviously,
25 doesn't have anything to do with any of the

1 programs that you are mentioning, some of
2 them fall under the county government.
3 However, you know, as elected officials I
4 think we can at least make some contacts,
5 ask some questions on your behalf and find
6 out what can be done to help you and to help
7 you to a point where you are able to be
8 reunited with your child.

9 MS. PETROZIELLO: And, like, I'm
10 trying to get my disability because I am
11 disabled, okay? I do have -- I'm bipolar,
12 depression, anxiety, fibromyalgia and spinal
13 stenosis. I have a five, not one, but I
14 have five reasons why my doctors don't want
15 me to work and it's not just, like, they are
16 specialists, okay, and I'm trying to get
17 disability and they are denying me. Then I
18 would apply again and they are telling me
19 that they are sending me forms that they are
20 not sending me, so I don't know if anybody
21 can help me with that because if I had that
22 I would be able to provide a home for my son
23 and I wouldn't have to give my son up.

24 MS. EVANS: Are you referencing
25 social security disability?

1 MS. PETROZIELLO: Yes.
 2 MS. EVANS: Then I think the best
 3 avenue and I can suggest to you is to get i
 4 contact personally with the office of your
 5 congressman. They have the ability I know
 6 to hasten the process many times with the
 7 regard to social security payments, so if
 8 you were able to do that I think, you know,
 9 that would be one way in which you can help
 10 yourself.

11 MS. PETROZIELLO: Well, I sure hope
 12 so because I had to listen to my son cry,
 13 called me on the phone and cry, "Mommy, I
 14 just want you with me."

15 MS. EVANS: I understand.

16 MS. PETROZIELLO: "Mommy, please can
 17 you meet me at school, so I can give you a
 18 kiss in the morning."

19 I don't know how many of you have
 20 children, but how hard -- how would any of
 21 you feel if you had to listen to your son
 22 who has mental problems, my son has severe
 23 ADHD, mind you, and he suffers from
 24 separation anxiety, and had to listen to
 25 your son on the phone crying, "Please,

1 mommy, I just want to be with you. Can you
 2 please just come to the school in the
 3 morning just to give me a kiss."

4 Imagine that. Imagine living on
 5 \$200 a month to support that child. I don't
 6 think any of you guys -- and nobody, nobody
 7 can do that. I don't think anybody can.

8 MS. EVANS: No one can. Thank you.

9 MS. PETROZIELLO: Thank you.

10 MS. EVANS: Our next speaker is Doug
 11 Miller.

12 MR. MILLER: Good evening, Council.
 13 Doug Miller, Scranton. I think it's safe to
 14 say we have the lights back after all of
 15 these years. You know, I just want to start
 16 off by just saying that, you know, I am
 17 appreciative of Mr. Washo coming in tonight.
 18 I was a little late so I missed most of the
 19 caucus tonight, but, you know, I do
 20 appreciate him coming forward and answering
 21 questions. Certainly this is very serious
 22 issue right now and it has a lot to do with
 23 the financial challenges that the city
 24 currently faces, but the bits and pieces
 25 that I did hear, you know, I am happy that

1 we will be able to make that bond payment
 2 tomorrow, however, I am very concerned about
 3 moving forward.

4 When we look, I believe it was
 5 stated \$1.5 million would be due in June,
 6 and there will also be a payment to follow
 7 after that in September and December and
 8 those are payments that those times that we
 9 are still not quite clear on where that
 10 money may be coming from, and that certainly
 11 is a cause of concern for me personally, and
 12 I know it is for you as well as well as the
 13 receiver.

14 This is certainly, I think needs to
 15 open our eyes and make us want to pursue
 16 some sort of avenue to implement a program
 17 as soon as possible. I know this has been
 18 on the table for a few weeks now, there has
 19 been some question in the legislation. I
 20 know the bidding was a major part of that,
 21 but I just really think we need to move
 22 forward here and put a plan in place. I
 23 know there were many questions from
 24 businesses in the community, residents in
 25 terms of meter rate increases and the

1 Saturday operations. My questions were
 2 transparency as well as the rates. I did
 3 have some concern with Saturday operations,
 4 but overall my whole focus is that when we
 5 do finally put a plan in place my hope is
 6 that the operator will be open and
 7 transparent and that, you know, budgets will
 8 be provided and we know where every nickle
 9 and dime is going. That certainly has
 10 caused a lot of problems that we face today
 11 because in the past we didn't have any of
 12 that, and we certainly just didn't know what
 13 was going on and that authority was being
 14 ran recklessly and there was no transparency
 15 and all of this mess was just unraveled and
 16 now we face these difficult situations at
 17 this time.

18 So I just hope that we can get a
 19 plan in place that generates revenue. We
 20 don't want to see this burden put on the
 21 taxpayers because ultimately that's where
 22 this will go and how that will happen is tax
 23 increases, whether we want to believe that
 24 or not, and that's not an avenue that we
 25 want to approach, so we need to put a plan

1 in place that's realistic with its numbers
2 and will generate revenue so that we avoid
3 the burden on the residents in this city.

4 I know it was discussed the idea of
5 maybe closing a garage so that we can save
6 some revenue and have the ability to make
7 our bond payments. Attorney Hughes brought
8 up a good point, maybe even selling a
9 garage, but then at the same time we face
10 the potential of having somebody come in and
11 maybe having, you know, less rates and
12 competing against us and it certainly hurts
13 us, but it's still something we should
14 consider. At this point no idea is a bad
15 idea. We face challenges and we need
16 something now and we need transparency and
17 accountability and we have to have the
18 ability to make our bond payments so we
19 avoid putting the burden and the taxpayers.

20 And with that said, that will be all
21 for tonight. Thank you.

22 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Dave
23 Dobrzyn.

24 MR. DOBRZYN: Good evening, Council.
25 Dave Dobrzyn, resident of Scranton.

1 MS. EVANS: Good evening.

2 MR. DOBRZYN: And I see you're
3 dropping the council, I'm sorry to hear
4 that, but I understand.

5 MS. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Dobrzyn.

6 MR. DOBRZYN: And I'm going to miss
7 you though after the first of the year.

8 MS. EVANS: And I you.

9 MR. DOBRZYN: I missed the beginning
10 of that, was anything asked about the dead
11 meter issue?

12 MS. EVANS: No, it was not because
13 Mr. Washo actually has nothing to do with
14 the on-street parking program. He oversees
15 solely the parking garages, so those issues
16 have to be raised with Standard Parking.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: And hopefully you
18 people will get a rather stern letter out to
19 them that that practice -- because it was
20 close to -- it was when you were sick, I
21 don't know if you seen the article, I have
22 been trying to dig for it, and I can't find
23 it and I'm going to have to go down to the
24 Times and try and get a reissue of it or
25 whatever or go on-line, but there was 30

1 percent, 40 percent of the meters had dead
2 batteries in them and --

3 MS. EVANS: Yes.

4 MR. DOBRZYN: -- and we are losing
5 tons of money.

6 MS. EVANS: Yes.

7 MR. DOBRZYN: The one week I parked
8 in front of the Guild Studios down here and
9 all three meters were dead. It was after
10 5:00, but they are dead, so obviously people
11 have been parking there for who knows how
12 long and not paying a dime.

13 Okay, now last week we had a little
14 discussion on tax exempts, and I hope to
15 bring the taxpayers in on that because I
16 feel that irregardless of who is lined up
17 against us in this county and this area,
18 now, granted that the University or
19 Lackawanna College or any of these other
20 institutions they don't really take up a
21 geographic area that would warrant against
22 the cost of your buildings. I mean, their
23 buildings are very high value, they are very
24 fancy and so forth, but I do feel that it is
25 time for the state to compensate us because

1 the constitution of the state is
2 unreasonable on tax exempts. It's totally
3 unreasonable. We have to support them
4 irregardless of how many and how many there
5 are. So, I mean, the happy medium would be
6 somewhere in-between, but with the current
7 situation we could wake up to find 50
8 percent, 75 percent some day so it's an
9 investment in the future and I'd like to
10 look into it and I'll be back to encourage
11 council, current and future with what I
12 find.

13 And be careful on management firms,
14 please, with Sewer Authority or meters or
15 whatever because that's what a lot of these
16 books I read are all about, like, "Free
17 Lunch" with David K. Johnston. People come
18 in, they offer -- you know, like Ford Motor
19 Company, they create a car, they put it on
20 the lot, they give 90 days credit to the
21 dealership and it sits there and then after
22 90 days the dealer/owner, franchise owner
23 has to start paying for the interest on it
24 at the very least. And, I mean, they
25 create-- that's a corporation that creates

1 something as opposed to coming in and
2 offering to take care of your money for you.

3 I was down the bank a couple of
4 weeks ago and my -- we have some retirement
5 money that we have to shift and the teller
6 is there, "Well, I'd want to get rid of that
7 right away. I wouldn't want it around."

8 You know? And it's, like, wait a
9 minute, you are talking about the wrong way
10 with my money -- or our money, but, you
11 know, you want to get rid of it and put it
12 into some annuity that might lose money on
13 top of it. I don't think so, but that's a
14 lot of these management firms come in and as
15 we see now with the dead meters they are not
16 delivering what they promised and I'm glad
17 that things were tabled and we are going to
18 take a step back and hopefully it will come
19 up with a better deal or maybe just decide
20 that it's not working.

21 Okay, 5-E, I support you entirely on
22 that. I'm just going to say that. It's
23 ridiculous.

24 And once again, the golden parrot
25 last week is the same, 20 cents left over a

1 week after this person in my neighborhood
2 had her social security raise after her
3 insurance is paid, and that's entirely way
4 out there. And HBSC, Liz Warren, kudos from
5 Massachusetts, HBSC banking was laundering
6 drug money to the tune of a billion dollars
7 and nobody has seen a day in jail. Now, if
8 you shared a little tiny baggie of something
9 in this town you'd probably wind up with
10 your house condemned and everything else,
11 you know.

12 One final thing, I wouldn't say take
13 the job and shove it to this person if he
14 makes it for mayor, but take his ideas and
15 stuff it.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

17 MR. DOBRZYN: Here you go. He
18 thinks that council should work for free.
19 We should put our school board, give them a
20 little commission on how much money they can
21 save and I think we would do better there,
22 too. Thank you. Have a good night. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Joan
25 Intoccia.

1 MS. INTOCCIA: Good evening.

2 MR. JOYCE: Good evening.

3 MS. INTOCCIA: Joan Intoccia,
4 Scranton. The other day I was coming home,
5 and I'm a resident of the East Mountain area
6 and I was coming up 307 to make a right to
7 go into the -- to get to the East Mountain,
8 and smash, I hit a hole that's very big and
9 actually took a picture of it. And I'm
10 thinking, I have to pay my taxes, I have to
11 keep my car good, I just spent over \$1,000
12 last month so I could get to work and I just
13 keep thinking, like, if they are going to
14 keep raising the taxes why don't we at least
15 not get -- like, worry about things at our
16 park and extras when we don't even have
17 roads to drive on.

18 So what I did today is I took some
19 pictures going across Seymour Avenue, and I
20 live on Elm, and on the corner of Elm,
21 whether I like it or not is the Friendship
22 House on the corner of Derby and Elm, and I
23 did take some pictures up there and you
24 could see where the two roads --and I'm
25 going to give you guys these pictures, if

1 you'd like.

2 MS. EVANS: Good.

3 MS. INTOCCIA: Where the two roads
4 don't even meet any more. You can barely
5 make a turn there, and after that when you
6 come up Elm in front of the school area,
7 this is the 15 -- probably like 1534-1536
8 Elm there is all -- the holes are just so
9 big and we don't even have, like, there is
10 no sidewalks, so if somebody is walking they
11 are walking in the road. The road isn't
12 really wide enough for two vehicles at the
13 same time so whatever everybody is doing is
14 coming into the middle of the road and it's
15 getting really -- it's not even an
16 inconvenience anymore it's actually, like,
17 very dangerous, so I have a whole bunch of
18 pictures here of that.

19 This is right in front of the
20 school, also, and it is like where the roads
21 just end they right into the gutter and it's
22 just pretty much washed off. When you come
23 down to the bottom of Elm there is
24 barricades that are there and it's actually
25 thankful because if you do keep going at

1 least it's something to try to stop you
2 because there is a home way, way down on the
3 cliff down below, okay?

4 You make that right and you go into
5 what's called the dangerous intersection,
6 and all of this is a small area and you go
7 down Elm and then it goes Beech, Blucher and
8 then down to Wintermantle. This is that "S"
9 turn. I saw a lady the other day not
10 intoxicated, not nighttime, not inclement
11 weather or any own you she just drove right
12 off of that and drove straight into the
13 thing. Her car was a Honda, it was like
14 bent, like a "V". She did have to get towed
15 out. Here is the section, I took a picture
16 of that section where you could see that the
17 road washes right away and then it's into
18 the bank by the Irish Cultural Society.

19 On the opposite side of the street
20 is also where it just the macadam is just
21 gone and there is no curbing or anything
22 like that. This is the corner that does
23 actually wash off by the Irish Cultural
24 Society and what happens is the Friendship
25 House is considered like a school so anybody

1 that is transporting those children, now,
2 Friendship House will come down another way
3 to not congest that area, but all of the
4 other schools that have children that come
5 up for their day program are not required to
6 do that because they are considered an
7 actual vehicle, so when they are trying to
8 get up and negotiate that and you have the
9 people coming down it's just very, very
10 dangerous. You come to a stop sign at the
11 bottom of that hill and there is a big hole
12 there so everybody is trying to go around.

13 Okay, come to the bottom of the hill
14 where River Street where the project was all
15 done and it's beautiful there and the
16 traffic is all monitored, you make a right
17 and you are heading over to the hospital now
18 on Meadow Avenue --

19 MS. SCHUMACHER: Meadow Avenue.

20 MS. INTOCCIA: Thank you, on Meadow
21 Avenue, well, that's like, just as
22 treacherous, too, and guess where it leads?
23 To go over to the hospital to the bridge
24 project that's a mess, too, and basically
25 I'm not trying to complain, I'm trying to

1 just say we have a major concern here and
2 when it involves schools and children I grew
3 up on East Mountain, there wasn't many
4 people up there, now there is, and there is
5 a real lot of kids and the 1500 block I bet
6 you there is between the 13 and 1500 block
7 of Elm I bet you there -- is lowballing the
8 figure seven to eight children that just
9 live on that one street.

10 MS. EVANS: Okay.

11 MS. INTOCCIA: Plus the school and
12 I'm just hoping that something could be done
13 to make it safer so we don't have to keep
14 crossing the road.

15 MS. EVANS: Yes, we absolutely
16 agree. We absolutely agree. I can tell you
17 that throughout the last four years it was
18 actually the action of this council to
19 increase significantly paving allocations
20 within the CDBG program, but the issue with
21 that is that CDBG paving occurs in low to
22 moderate income areas, so I am thinking that
23 perhaps some of the areas that you have
24 described are not going to fit those income
25 guidelines, however, that does not mean in

1 my opinion anyway that this situation should
2 not be addressed.

3 MS. INTOCCIA: Right, it's a safety
4 concern.

5 MS. EVANS: And I'm very grateful
6 that have you all of the photos, if you
7 leave those, please, with Mrs. Marciano and
8 we will make sure that the DPW and the mayor
9 are both contacted and that these pictures
10 are seen by both and council will request on
11 behalf of the neighbors of East Mountain
12 that these roads, these gaping holes, are
13 taken care of because this is a public
14 safety issue.

15 MS. INTOCCIA: Thank you, that's
16 what I was thinking. You know, everybody
17 says, you know, East Mountain is like the
18 la-de-da section. I said, "This is our
19 la-de-da section? This is what we are
20 paying additional taxes for?"

21 And it's not -- to me at this point
22 it's not even that -- you know, I'm lucky
23 that I can pay the taxes and the garbage
24 fee, and I now we all have to pull our part,
25 but, like, when we do that we pay our taxes

1 and our schools get low grades and we can't
2 make it down the road to even get to work if
3 we have a job.

4 MR. ROGAN: I would just add East
5 Mountain and West Mountain, as you
6 mentioned, are two of the areas, extra areas
7 of the city that you are paying more taxes
8 than some other people are and those two
9 neighborhoods have some of the worst roads
10 because of the drainage issues specifically
11 and the freezing and thawing in the winter,
12 so they are definitely issues that need to
13 be addressed and luckily the city, I did
14 speak to Linda Aebli the other day regarding
15 grant money from the state that can be used
16 in other areas. There is also up on Pike
17 Street was one that I was also trying to
18 work on and I'll make sure this all gets
19 passed along to her as well and the DPW.

20 MS. INTOCCIA: Thank you very much.
21 I appreciate it. Have a night nice.

22 MS. EVANS: You, too. Is there
23 anyone else who cares to address council?

24 MR. SBARAGLIA: Andy Sbaraglia,
25 citizen of Scranton, fellow Scrantonian.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Good evening.

2 MR. SBARAGLIA: I listened to
3 Mr. Washo's presentation and you and I know
4 it's all a dream. The garages are not going
5 to pay for themselves ever. In fact, even
6 if you could pay the bonds off and the
7 revenue from the garages the repairs are
8 massive. They are not going to do it, so
9 you in the beginning said our board over
10 there was bad. They weren't running it
11 right. Well, the trouble was that council
12 that voted for us to take over the payment
13 if they could pay there is where the error
14 was made. They did what the mayor probably
15 told them to do. There is no way to tell
16 them to say that we needed all of the
17 garages, we didn't need them then, we didn't
18 need them now and you know the Hilton got
19 that garage because they give 120 spaces,
20 okay? And originally they were supposed to
21 build their own garage where the Casey was.

22 Okay, that's gone. Them garages are
23 not going to pay. Now, the solution we have
24 to turn to a different way. By telling
25 people they have to pay more to park isn't

1 going to work either. You are just going to
2 attack businesses in Scranton. There is no
3 question about that either. I wish these
4 people were old enough to remember when we
5 had free parking down there in Scranton and
6 like Mr. McGoff said we had four way
7 stopping on the lights, too, that was tried,
8 too, but for some reason or other somebody
9 comes to another study and that went off the
10 board. You used to be able to cross all
11 different ways.

12 Okay, that was there, but the thing
13 is we need revenue. Now, the state may help
14 us when they take over the schools, let's
15 hope they do it soon, but the other thing
16 you got to go in different directions. We
17 have actually private business in Scranton
18 run by government through these authorities.
19 The Sewer Authority is a private business
20 and there is no question about that. What's
21 your solution there? Okay, they are there,
22 there is nothing you can do about it, but
23 why not try to get some kind of a deal or
24 hire somebody. We buy our electricity
25 through probably somebody that arranges

1 that, why not go with the whole city to do
2 that and then the extra money that we are
3 making on selling electricity to residents
4 in this city you can apply toward your
5 debts, in which cases the taxes may not go
6 up as much anyway. We are ahead for 40
7 percent and there is no way out of that.
8 You know it, I know it, everyone knows it
9 and the city knows it, but you got to look
10 to different directions for income. You
11 can't keep oppressing people. Politicians
12 seem to know that. You just oppress people.
13 You want to do something you do it and let
14 the poor taxpayer pay for it. That isn't
15 working in Scranton. You got to go get --
16 if you want to go to that approach you got
17 to get jobs in Scranton. Many, many jobs.
18 They are not here, they are not coming,
19 maybe they will never come, so you got to
20 look different approaches.

21 I told you one way, maybe you should
22 spin off the fire department. Everybody has
23 to pay for fire protection. You know that
24 all of these nonprofits have to pay for
25 their electricity, they have to pay for

1 their gas, they have to pay for this, they
 2 have to pay for that, but we ain't charging
 3 them for the services we are providing. You
 4 got to look to that direction and see if it
 5 can you done. All of these approaches you
 6 got to try because Scranton is a problem.
 7 The parking garages will never pay for
 8 themselves, so you might as well just forget
 9 about that. Your hope is that you don't
 10 have to give more than you have to. That's
 11 the only solution you got there.

12 So different approaches where income
 13 can come in without oppressing the people is
 14 the best way to go, and I think you should
 15 look at any of them solutions and see if
 16 they can be applicable, especially to be
 17 able to charge the nonprofits or the fire
 18 and police protection. Thank you.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you.

20 MS. SCHUMACHER: Good evening,
 21 Council. Marie Schumacher, resident and
 22 taxpayer. I can attest to the fact that the
 23 pothole going off 307 West on Seymour is a
 24 killer. There are others, but that one is
 25 really atrocious.

1 And then as to revenue sources I was
 2 thinking of, the other day I went to the
 3 Mulberry Bush to do some business and I went
 4 off Mulberry Street and made the right-hand
 5 turn and almost got clobbered because there
 6 was a New Jersey plated car whose rear
 7 bumper was aligned with corner on Mulberry
 8 Street and I think we can make a bundle. I
 9 will bring the article next week because
 10 somebody -- some local municipality
 11 deputized in their case the firemen who were
 12 off-duty to go around and do -- they said
 13 the state allows this, to go around and give
 14 ticketing for vehicles that are parked
 15 illegally and I think not only would it make
 16 Scranton a whole lot safer, but it would
 17 also bring in a lot of revenue, so I think
 18 that's a consideration and I will bring that
 19 article next week.

20 I was somewhat disappointed that
 21 nobody asked about the capital requirements,
 22 which I believe were like estimated at \$10
 23 million in the Rich report, for the parking
 24 garages and I hope maybe you can bring that
 25 up with Mr. Washo. I know it's not a this

1 year kind of problem, but going forward it
 2 is and especially if one is closed, which
 3 one gets closed.

4 Onto some former other questions,
 5 which if they don't get answered tonight I
 6 will submit in writing in the morning.
 7 Mr. Joyce, I appreciated the revenue figures
 8 that you provided last week, but I'd like to
 9 make two requests.

10 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

11 MS. SCHUMACHER: First that you
 12 normalize the comparisons where the rate has
 13 changed. I assume last -- the figures you
 14 gave us last week were just raw numbers of
 15 dollars, they weren't adjusted for the
 16 increase in taxes this year?

17 MR. JOYCE: Correct. I did mention
 18 that the earned income tax one -- or
 19 collections are up 30 percent, but I will
 20 admit that I did fail to mention that there
 21 was also a 22 percent tax increase.

22 MS. SCHUMACHER: So if you can
 23 normalize them as you provide them going
 24 forward and to this year.

25 MR. JOYCE: Okay.

1 MS. SCHUMACHER: I then, also, I
 2 would like to ask that you expand the
 3 2012/2013 comparisons to all revenue items
 4 on a monthly basis. I think that's
 5 critical.

6 And I hope that tonight you will be
 7 providing the number of the entities billed
 8 for parking spaces and the number that have
 9 responded with payments to date. You were
 10 going to check that out, so I hope you have
 11 that to share tonight during motions.

12 MR. JOYCE: I don't have it to share
 13 during motions, I didn't get a response on
 14 that, but I will follow-up.

15 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay. And,
 16 Mr. Rogan, did you see the article in last
 17 Saturday's Times-Tribune noting that the
 18 former Banshee was not opened for parade day
 19 because they ran into delays obtaining city
 20 permits?

21 MR. ROGAN: I believe I did read
 22 that and I spoke about it last week.
 23 Farley's did open, which was one that was in
 24 question, and the Banshee did not.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: But the Banshee --

1 but at that time I don't think anybody was
2 aware that it was due to a permit problem.
3 They had been planning to open in late
4 February and I would like to suggest that
5 maybe you could meet with Mr. -- I'm going
6 to probably mispronounce this, Betrucky to
7 get the details, because if it's a systemic
8 problem maybe something could be changed
9 inside internally to expedite permits, so we
10 get businesses open as soon as we can.

11 MR. ROGAN: Absolutely, and when I
12 spoke last week about, you know, the bars
13 opening and a couple of people brought this
14 up, I didn't have a problem with the owner
15 opening up or if it was presented as
16 previous that somebody was coming and
17 opening for the day.

18 MS. SCHUMACHER: My time, use yours
19 during motions. And then ten days ago OECD
20 advertised the draft paper, the consolidated
21 annual performance report was available for
22 review, have you reviewed that and are there
23 any surprises in that?

24 MR. ROGAN: No, not as of yet, I
25 will call tomorrow morning to get a copy of

1 that.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Okay.
3 Mr. Loscombe, could you provide the
4 procedure that used by the police department
5 to prioritize manpower when there are big
6 events such as the parade day, the St.
7 Patrick's Day parade?

8 MR. LOSCOMBE: Sure.

9 MS. SCHUMACHER: I'm specifically
10 interested in what an expected response time
11 would have been for normal operations such
12 as notification of the burglar alarm going
13 off, so if you could do that I would
14 appreciate it.

15 And then, Mr. McGoff, I don't want
16 to neglect you, so I'll ask for an update on
17 the revision of the rental property
18 ordinance and express the hope that you will
19 be sharing the number of rental units
20 registered to date?

21 MR. MCGOFF: I have been out of town
22 for over a week and I haven't -- I just
23 arrived back today, so I haven't been able
24 to get there.

25 MS. SCHUMACHER: Oh, okay. And then

1 I'd like to close with last week's -- the
2 last speaker last week during public comment
3 talked about election hearing from the
4 podium being admissible, and may I complete
5 this?

6 MS. EVANS: Quickly, please.

7 MS. SCHUMACHER: If it is why was
8 Greg Evans asked to remove his campaign
9 button the prior week if electioneering from
10 the podium is okay?

11 MS. EVANS: I believe we are talking
12 about a matter of free speech that's
13 guaranteed by the constitution. On the
14 other hand, I don't believe that you are
15 necessarily -- maybe you are, guaranteed the
16 right to wear and carry campaign
17 paraphernalia during a city council meeting.
18 At the very least, I think it's most
19 inappropriate, and I'll take it a step
20 further, I also feel it's inappropriate for
21 candidates for elected office to use that
22 podium to campaign. I have the greatest
23 respect for and give credit to those
24 candidates who do not use that podium or
25 these meetings for self-promotion during a

1 campaign season.

2 MS. SCHUMACHER: Well, I agree with
3 that, but I don't see what the difference is
4 between a candidate doing it themselves and
5 a supporter doing it, but thank you.

6 MS. EVANS: Is there anyone else?

7 MS. KRAKE: FIFTH ORDER. 5-A.
8 MOTIONS.

9 MS. EVANS: Councilman McGoff, do
10 you have any comments or motions this
11 evening?

12 MR. MCGOFF: Just very quickly. As
13 I said, I have been out of town for over a
14 week and I'm trying to get caught up with
15 some things. Just a couple of brief
16 comments about the streets, I think we all
17 agree that the city streets are in pretty
18 bad condition and I know that the DPW has
19 attempted in the past to try and keep up
20 with as much patching and so on. I know at
21 this point in time one of the great
22 difficulties has been the weather that they
23 simply can't get out and patch and,
24 obviously, can't get out to repave anything
25 as long as the weather remains this cold

1 and, hopefully, that when the weather does
2 break and they are able to then we take a
3 look at the secondary things -- or not
4 secondary, really the primary things, and
5 that's the costs of repairs or repaving of
6 streets, and as Mrs. Evans said, in a lot of
7 areas where there is a great need for repair
8 there simply isn't money available to make
9 the necessary repairs.

10 Hopefully we can get around some of
11 this because there is a great need. The
12 areas that were mentioned I drive on a lot
13 of those streets in South Side and am well
14 aware of how bad they are. We have spoken
15 before the very poor conditions of Lake
16 Scranton Road, which probably hasn't been
17 repaved in decades, but is in very bad need
18 of it so hopefully we can find some ways
19 when the spring and summer comes to make
20 these repairs and in all areas that and
21 certainly in the areas that are of greatest
22 need.

23 Secondly, just a quick thing, I was
24 not in Scranton for the St. Patrick's Day
25 parade, I was told that the weather was

1 decent and that the participation was
2 tremendous, and I would like to send out a
3 congratulations to all of the members of the
4 St. Patrick's Day parade committee for
5 another great effort and a day that, and I
6 speak of the parade, another great day for
7 families in downtown Scranton. I cannot
8 speak to the events that take place after
9 the parade, that's a whole separate topic.

10 And lastly, Happy St. Patrick's Day
11 to everyone this Sunday, please, you know,
12 enjoy your ham and cabbage and your
13 shepherds pie or Irish stew on Sunday and
14 celebrate responsibly. And that's all I
15 have. Thank you.

16 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Councilman
17 Rogan, do you have any comments or motions?

18 MR. ROGAN: Yes. Thank you. Just
19 to start off regarding the caucus with
20 Mr. Washo, the receiver of the Parking
21 Authority, one of the big issues that is
22 bothering a lot of people and that I asked
23 was Mr. Washo's salary of \$100 an hour and
24 that's been the talk of the town. People
25 would say, you know, we have Mr. Washo

1 making a \$100 an hour and he does seem -- to
2 his credit he does seem to have the facts
3 and the figures and everything, you know,
4 that council asked for and I'm glad he said
5 he is going to keep in touch with us, but
6 it's very frustrating that you have somebody
7 making more money an hour than most people
8 in the city are making in a day, the tax
9 base and the city can't support that type of
10 wage, and I am disappointed that when I
11 asked Mr. Washo he wouldn't take a pay cut.
12 You know, I'm glad to hear that his hours he
13 says are going down, but \$100 an hour is not
14 acceptable.

15 Also, on the parking garages, and
16 I'll reiterate my position, I believe we
17 need to at least close or possibly sell a
18 couple of garages. There is too much
19 parking for not enough parkers, and the
20 garages, as Attorney Hughes, and others
21 mentioned, they have to be maintained and
22 they have to be staffed, and when you have
23 occupancy rates 27 percent, 30, 37 percent,
24 56 percent, which isn't to bad in the
25 Connell garage, 24 and 27, we obviously have

1 more parking than parkers.

2 I also agree with what Mr. Joyce
3 mentioned of trying to lower the rates and
4 extend -- having more customers. A top
5 floor discount was one of the items that
6 have been mentioned. Also, there can be,
7 you know, the same way when you sign up for
8 a cable TV or satellite dish where you get
9 into a contract and get a discounted rate to
10 start and then later on the price will go
11 up.

12 There is number of different ways to
13 try to lure people in the garages, but
14 raising rates to solve the revenue problem
15 isn't going to fix it. It's just going to
16 drive more and more people out of the
17 garages and into those private garages.

18 Next, I attended, myself and
19 Councilman Loscombe, attended the Pinebrook
20 Neighborhood Watch meeting on Tuesday and I
21 wanted to thank everyone who attended, and
22 especially Chief Graziano. There were a
23 couple of issues that were brought to light
24 at the meeting that were neglected and from
25 talking to members of the neighborhood

1 association the next day they were taken
2 care of, which is great, and Chief Graziano
3 has been doing a great job and that's very
4 good to hear.

5 Also, kudos to the police department
6 and the DPW for their good work regarding
7 the parade and cleanup after the parade. As
8 Mr. McGoff mentioned the parade committee,
9 the weather it was better than okay it was
10 beautiful, it was about 60 degrees. It was
11 a great time downtown and seems everything
12 went smoothly this year, which is great to
13 hear.

14 I spoke to -- this is on a revenue
15 issue, I spoke to School Director Bob
16 Sheridan regarding a revenue item that the
17 school district is looking at that may also
18 bring in money for the city that was
19 reported in the newspaper, and this is the
20 technology where cameras will be mounted in
21 buses and would give citations to those who
22 pass school buses, so I will be continuing
23 to work with Director Sheridan, talking
24 about that and getting some more
25 information, and once I get that I will be

1 sure to pass that along.

2 Also, one announcement I forgot to
3 make, Giovanni Piccolino just messaged me,
4 the owner of Buona Pizza, he will be having
5 a free Easter brunch once again this year
6 from 12 to 2 on Easter Sunday at Buona, so
7 he would like to invite everybody to come
8 out and attend. There is no charge. If
9 somebody is lonely or wants a free meal or
10 would like to socialize can stop down and
11 say hello, it should be a good event.

12 And I do have some citizens'
13 requests. First this is a letter that I
14 received from a resident of the Hill Section
15 shun that would like to call our attention
16 to several properties that the property
17 taxes and refuse fees have not been paid for
18 over ten years and the addresses are 42, 424
19 and 425 Clay Avenue. They owe in excess of
20 \$100,000 in property taxes and refuse fees
21 and they state if you drive up the 400 block
22 of the Clay Avenue there are large "For
23 Rent" signs on each property with an
24 occupancy date of May 2013. They would like
25 us to inquire the following: Does the city

1 intend to follow the condemned property
2 policy ordinances require the developer pay
3 all property taxes and refuse fees before
4 the developer is issued any zoning or
5 building permits? This resident is a senior
6 citizens who pays their taxes and refuse
7 bill on time every year and if the city
8 allows property owners to run up ten years
9 and take no action against them it's
10 certainly not fair.

11 So, Mrs. Krake, I do have this and
12 there is quite a few pages of the taxes that
13 are owed, the garbage fees that are owed,
14 everything is included here, so I will have
15 this if you could pass this along to the
16 proper departments.

17 Also, to the police department,
18 residents report that cars are running the
19 streetlight on the Parker Street bridge and
20 it's a very dangerous situation.

21 Also, to the fire chief and Chief
22 Graziano, residents report that people are
23 parking in the fire lane of the Keyser
24 Valley Shopping Center, and this goes to the
25 point that Ms. Schumacher mentioned, of

1 having firefighters deputized to go out and
2 enforce these things would be a good idea
3 for the city and it's certainly something we
4 should look into.

5 Third, a resident would like to know
6 if the DPW is once again using glass as
7 anti-skid. I haven't seen this, I remember
8 a few years back this happened and it was a
9 very poor decision. Hopefully that rumor is
10 not true, I haven't seen it in the
11 community, but I would like to get an answer
12 on that.

13 And finally, could we please a send
14 a letter to the DPW with the pictures of the
15 roads on East Mountain, ask that they be
16 placed on the pave list and in mean time
17 repaired.

18 And, also, could we please send one
19 final request regarding Pike Street that it
20 is repaired and paved.

21 And that is all I have until the
22 agenda items. Thank you.

23 MS. EVANS: Thank you. And,
24 Councilman Loscombe, do you have comments or
25 motions this evening?

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: No, I have no
2 comments this evening.

3 MS. EVANS: Councilman Joyce?

4 MR. JOYCE: I do. I'm going to try
5 and be as brief as I could tonight I only
6 have a few things to report on, but before I
7 begin I want you to remember in your
8 prayers, if you could, the family of
9 Mr. Marx, the late principal of Scranton
10 preparatory school. Mr. Marx was a very
11 Honorable man, I'm sure he was a great
12 principal, and he was also my former Latin
13 teacher, so if you could remember his family
14 in your prayers I would greatly appreciate
15 it.

16 Secondly tonight, the City of
17 Scranton has received a report from
18 Berkheimer regarding January and February
19 earned income tax collections, and just to
20 give everyone an idea of where we are for
21 January, total resident collections amounted
22 to \$1,036,582.38, and in these collections
23 \$434,766.73 was from the fourth quarter of
24 2012, \$553,516.88 was from the third quarter
25 of 2012, \$15,596.69 was from the second

1 quarter of 2012, and \$32,702.08 was from the
2 first quarter of 2012.

3 As far as non-resident collections,
4 which we refer to on council as 888 money,
5 which is earned income tax on people that
6 work in the city that don't have the earned
7 income tax in their community. In the
8 period ending on January of 2013, the city
9 collected \$26,994.21. \$7,170.11 was from
10 the fourth quarter of 2012, \$19,611.53 was
11 from the third quarter of 2012. \$3.95 was
12 from the second quarter of 2012, and \$208.62
13 was from the first quarter of 2012.

14 As far as delinquent taxes are
15 concerned, in regard to delinquent EIT
16 revenue in the period ending January of
17 2013, Berkheimer collected \$446,881.77,
18 \$343,650.26 was from the third quarter of
19 2012, \$102,583.80 was from the second
20 quarter of 2012, and \$647.71 was from the
21 first quarter of the 2012.

22 In regard to non-resident collection
23 or 888 money, delinquent 888 money, the
24 total for the month of January of 2012 was
25 \$12,374.88. This constitutes collections of

1 \$8,383.60 from the third quarter of 2012,
2 \$4,092.45 from the second quarter of 2012.

3 So for the month of the January the
4 total amount of delinquent taxes and current
5 taxes in regard to the wage tax that were
6 collected amounted to \$1,522,833.24.
7 Berkheimer's fee for collecting these taxes
8 was \$15,201.79. So the net distribution was
9 \$1,503,288.40.

10 Also, we received a report regarding
11 the collection of wage taxes from the month
12 of February. The total current resident
13 collections from the month of February
14 amounted to \$2,803,785.14. The majority of
15 this \$2,712,905.84 was from the fourth
16 quarter of 2012, and \$81,191.14 was from the
17 third quarter of 2012. \$4,682.79 was from
18 the second quarter of 2012, and \$5,005.37
19 was from the first quarter of 2012.

20 As far as non-resident collections,
21 or 888 money, we have received a total of
22 \$62,044.44. \$61,301.29 was from the fourth
23 quarter of 2012, \$640.37 was from the third
24 quarter of 2012, so the total current amount
25 of resident and non-resident earned income

1 tax that we have received in the month of
2 February was \$2,875,514.96.

3 As far as the delinquent collections
4 are concerned, we received a total of
5 \$41,039.98 in resident earned income tax,
6 and a total of \$1,755.98 in non-resident
7 earned income tax. The total delinquent
8 collections were \$42,795.96, and the total
9 taxes collected for the month of the
10 February in regard to income tax was
11 \$2,918,310.92.

12 For the fees associated for
13 Berkheimer for collecting these taxes was
14 \$40,837.35. Therefore, the net distribution
15 was \$2,877,422.58, so for the year we are up
16 to \$4,441,144.14 in earned incompetent
17 income tax collections.

18 And that's all for tonight.

19 MS. EVANS: Thank you. Good
20 evening. I'd like to begin by thanking
21 those who circulated city council nomination
22 petitions for me and every single resident
23 who signed them. I deeply appreciate your
24 continued support and loyalty.

25 Also, I thank everyone who called

1 and e-mailed me to wish me well and offered
2 their thanks and understanding. It's my
3 honor to work for you and, indeed, their
4 remains a great deal of work to accomplish.

5 One of my goals during the current
6 fiscal year is to cut health care costs by
7 entering into contracts for prescription and
8 dental services with bidders that can
9 demonstrate savings for our city and a
10 continuation of the good services to city
11 employees.

12 In order to generate additional
13 costs savings in future years, I hope to
14 establish a health care consortium among the
15 city, school district and the county. As
16 was announced previously, the county
17 commissioners do not wish to explore
18 potential savings in health care costs by
19 participating in the consortium.

20 Nevertheless, the city and the
21 school district will cooperate in the
22 initial stage to determine if savings to
23 both be can realized. However, the refusal
24 to participate by the county commissioners
25 at this time could jeopardize the viability

1 of the consortium and, thus, any and all
2 savings that could occur to benefit the
3 taxpayers not only of Scranton but of
4 Lackawanna County as well. In this vein,
5 city council wishes to review the current
6 contract between the City of Scranton and
7 Blue Cross.

8 Therefore, Mrs. Krake, please send
9 letters to the mayor and the business
10 administrator requesting a copy of the
11 current Blue Cross contract on or before
12 March 22, 2013.

13 Next, the office of the City Council
14 received a response on March 13, 2013, to
15 the question raised by Mr. Sbaraglia during
16 the March 7 council meeting. Mary Ellen
17 Clark, assistant administrator of the
18 Scranton/Lackawanna County Health and
19 Welfare Authority states that only the
20 borrower is responsible for payment of
21 obligations issued by the authority. The
22 lender would have to seek any remedies
23 directly against the borrower. The lender
24 could not look to the authority, the city or
25 the county for payment. I hope this

1 response is satisfactory to Mr. Sbaraglia.

2 Please know that many of the
3 questions raised by council speakers are
4 actually questions that should be asked of
5 the mayor and/or department heads and at
6 times some of the issues, in fact, deal with
7 the school district or even county
8 government. As a result, city council
9 forwards such questions to the appropriate
10 individuals and has no control over whether
11 they choose to respond. Therefore, it is
12 not city council that fails to respond,
13 rather it is the administration. Council
14 serves only as a go-between for questions
15 that should be asked of the appropriate city
16 administrators and governing bodies.

17 Now, as most are aware, some
18 Republican senators and congressmen have
19 forced job killing across the board budget
20 cuts that are damaging our nation's fragile
21 economy. Despite voter opposition,
22 Congressional Republicans demand cuts to
23 Medicare, social security and Medicaid
24 benefits and tax breaks for Wall Street and
25 the wealthiest 2 percent. They are seeking

1 benefit cuts that effect our most vulnerable
2 citizens, the elderly and the poor,
3 including social security COLA cuts,
4 increasing the Medicare eligibility age,
5 higher Medicare premiums for beneficiaries
6 with incomes as low as \$47,000, higher
7 out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare
8 beneficiaries and deep cuts to Medicaid that
9 would shift the costs to individual and
10 reduce access to care. They would rather
11 cut those benefits than close the loophole
12 that prohibits Medicare from negotiating
13 lower drug prices with the pharmaceutical
14 companies or close tax loopholes for Wall
15 Street and the wealthiest 2 percent of
16 Americans.

17 In addition, they are threatening to
18 shut down the federal government on March 27
19 and cause a government default after May 19.
20 People want jobs, not cuts. We want
21 negotiation and compromise, not
22 sequestration and political gamesmanship.

23 Therefore, as President of Scranton
24 City Council, I request a resolution, Item
25 5-E on tonight's agenda, that asks

1 Congressman Barletta, Cartwright and Marino
2 and Senators Casey and Toomey to oppose
3 sequestration, protect social security,
4 Medicaid and Medicare for benefit cuts, to
5 close loopholes for Wall Street and the
6 richest 2 percent of Americans and to invest
7 in jobs creation.

8 We are five Democratic council
9 members and as such I ask my honorable
10 colleagues to vote to approve this important
11 resolution and send this strong message to
12 our federal elected leaders both Republicans
13 and Democrats.

14 In addition, at my request Solicitor
15 Hughes drafted a resolution, Item 5-D on our
16 agenda, appointing Civil Crossroads as
17 special city engineer to investigate and
18 perform engineering studies regarding Lake
19 Scranton Road. Again, I ask my colleagues
20 to support Item 5-D and the quality of life
21 of the residents of that area.

22 Finally, I have one citizen's
23 requests: Neighbors report a nuisance
24 property at 612 Mineral Avenue. They state
25 that the police have been to this property

1 at least ten times or over the past few
2 months and they request a condemnation of
3 the structure. Send an inspector as soon as
4 possible. And that's it.

5 MS. KRAKE: 5-B. AMENDING FILE OF
6 THE COUNCIL NO. 74, 1993, (AS AMENDED),
7 ENTITLED "THE ZONING ORDINANCE FOR THE
8 CITY OF SCRANTON" BY REPEALING SECTION 516
9 ENTITLED FLOOD-PRONE AREAS AND ENACTING
10 SECTION 516 ENTITLED FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT
11 REGULATIONS.

12 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
13 entertain a motion that Item 5-B be
14 introduced into its proper committee.

15 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

16 MR. JOYCE: Second.

17 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
18 those in favor of introduction signify by
19 saying aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-C. AUTHORIZING THE
2 MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE CITY OFFICIALS
3 TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH
4 MICHAEL BAKER, JR., INC., 100 AIRSIDE DRIVE,
5 MOON TOWNSHIP, PA TO PROVIDE PRE-DEMOLITION
6 ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTIONS FOR APPROXIMATELY
7 20-50 PROPERTIES SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION OF
8 HAZARDOUS STRUCTURES THROUGH SCRANTON'S
9 OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
10 (OECD).

11 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
12 entertain a motion that Item 5-C be
13 introduced into its proper committee.

14 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

15 MR. MCGOFF: Second.

16 MS. EVANS: On the question?

17 MR. ROGAN: Yes. I'd just like to
18 note, this was the lowest bidder.

19 MS. EVANS: Yes, that was put out to
20 bid and we did -- it doesn't always happen,
21 but we did select the lowest bidder -- well,
22 we did not, it was selected by the
23 administration, the lowest bidder.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Just quickly on the
25 question, also, I'm glad to see this being

1 done because this is something --

2 MS. EVANS: You had asked for.

3 MR. LOSCOMBE: -- that I had
4 mentioned awhile back regarding the amount,
5 but then it was contracts that put out there
6 to demolish these buildings. It seemed like
7 every one had additional monies they were
8 requesting because of this, so I'm glad to
9 so this being done. Could save us money in
10 the long run through the OECD and other
11 projects.

12 MS. EVANS: And I thank you because
13 I believe it's due to your efforts,
14 Councilman Loscombe, that this is occur
15 occurring, so thank you for that and for
16 saving tax dollars for our residents.

17 MR. LOSCOMBE: Thank you.

18 MS. EVANS: All those in favor of
19 introduction signify by saying aye.

20 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

21 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

22 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

23 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

24 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
25 have it and so moved.

1 MS. KRAKE: 5-D. ORDINANCE OF THE
 2 CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
 3 PENNSYLVANIA, APPOINTING CIVIL CROSSROADS
 4 CONSULTING ENGINEERS AS SPECIAL CITY
 5 ENGINEERS TO THE CITY OF SCRANTON, DUE TO A
 6 CONFLICT OF INTEREST OF CECO ASSOCIATES,
 7 INC., THE CITY OF SCRANTON'S ENGINEER, TO
 8 INVESTIGATE AND PERFORM ENGINEERING STUDIES
 9 REGARDING THE CONDITION AND DETERIORATION OF
 10 LAKE SCRANTON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 307 TO
 11 ELMHURST BOULEVARD, ISSUE OPINIONS,
 12 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE
 13 REQUIRED REHABILITATION AND RESURFACING OF
 14 ALL OR PORTIONS OF LAKE SCRANTON ROAD,
 15 AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES
 16 UP TO TEN THOUSAND (\$10,000.00) DOLLARS TO
 17 BE PAID FROM THE CITY'S REPAYMENTS OF URBAN
 18 DEVELOPMENT ACTION GRANTS ACCOUNT AND
 19 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
 20 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH
 21 CIVIL CROSSROADS CONSULTING ENGINEERS.

22 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
 23 entertain a motion that Item 5-D be
 24 introduced into its proper committee.

25 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

1 MR. JOYCE: Second.
 2 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
 3 those in favor of introduction signify by
 4 saying aye.
 5 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.
 6 MR. ROGAN: Aye.
 7 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.
 8 MR. JOYCE: Aye.
 9 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
 10 have it and so moved.
 11 MS. KRAKE: 5-E. AUTHORIZING THE
 12 COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SCRANTON TO EXECUTE A
 13 RESOLUTION OF OPPOSITION TO ACROSS-THE-BOARD
 14 BUDGET CUTS REQUIRED BY THE BUDGET CONTROL
 15 ACT OF 2011, CALLED "SEQUESTRATION" AND
 16 REJECTION OF ANY AND ALL APPROACHES THAT
 17 EXPAND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY AND SHIFT
 18 INCREASED BURDENS TO THOSE WHO CAN LEAST
 19 AFFORD IT.

20 MS. EVANS: At this time I'll
 21 entertain a motion that Item 5-E be
 22 introduced into its proper committee.

23 MR. ROGAN: So moved.

24 MR. JOYCE: Second.

25 MS. EVANS: On the question? All

1 those in favor of introduction signify by
 2 saying aye.

3 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

4 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

5 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

6 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

7 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
 8 have it and so moved.

9 MS. KRAKE: 6-A. READING BY TITLE -
 10 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 9, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE -
 11 GRANTING A SPECIAL ENCROACHMENT PERMIT
 12 TO REGIONAL HOSPITAL OF SCRANTON, OF 700
 13 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA,
 14 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A CANOPY EXTENDING
 15 FROM THE APPLICANT'S BUILDING 21 FEET, 0
 16 INCHES, SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS.

17 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
 18 title of Item 6-A, what is your pleasure?

19 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-A
 20 pass reading by title.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
 23 those in favor signify by saying aye.

24 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

25 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

1 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

2 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

3 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
 4 have it and so moved.

5 MS. KRAKE: 6-B. READING BY TITLE -
 6 FILE OF COUNCIL NO. 10, 2013 - AN ORDINANCE
 7 - ESTABLISHING NINE (9) ON-STREET PARKING
 8 SPACES IN THE 700 BLOCK OF JEFFERSON AVENUE
 9 FROM THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON AND PINE
 10 STREET NORTH ALONG JEFFERSON AVENUE THROUGH
 11 AND INCLUDING THE INTERSECTION OF JEFFERSON
 12 AVENUE AND GIBSON STREET IN THE CITY OF
 13 SCRANTON, AND REPEALING INCONSISTENT
 14 ORDINANCES.

15 MS. EVANS: You've heard reading by
 16 title of Item 6-B, what is your pleasure?

17 MR. ROGAN: I move that Item 6-B
 18 pass reading by title.

19 MR. JOYCE: Second.

20 MS. EVANS: On the question? All
 21 those in favor signify by saying aye.

22 MR. MCGOFF: Aye.

23 MR. ROGAN: Aye.

24 MR. LOSCOMBE: Aye.

25 MR. JOYCE: Aye.

1 MS. EVANS: Aye. Opposed? The ayes
2 have it and so moved.

3 MS. KRAKE: 7-A. FOR CONSIDERATION
4 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
5 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 9,
6 2013-APPROVING THE FINANCING BY THE
7 SCRANTON-LACKAWANNA
8 HEALTH AND WELFARE AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN
9 CAPITAL PROJECTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF
10 COMMUNITY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC., A
11 PENNSYLVANIA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION;
12 DECLARING THAT IT IS DESIRABLE FOR THE
13 HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF
14 THE CITY OF SCRANTON, LACKAWANNA COUNTY,
15 PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE AREA SERVED BY
16 COMMUNITY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS, INC. TO HAVE
17 THE PROJECTS PROVIDED BY AND FINANCED
18 THROUGH THE AUTHORITY; DESIGNATING THE
19 MAYOR OF THE CITY, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE
20 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
21 COUNCIL, AS THE PERSON TO ACT ON BEHALF OF
22 THE CITY COUNCIL AS THE "APPLICABLE ELECTED
23 REPRESENTATIVE" WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE
24 INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986, AS AMENDED;
25 AUTHORIZING SUCH MAYOR OF THE CITY OR THE

1 PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CITY
2 COUNCIL OF THE CITY TO TAKE CERTAIN ACTIONS
3 ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AS
4 SUCH "APPLICABLE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE";
5 AND AUTHORIZING OTHER NECESSARY AND
6 APPROPRIATE ACTION.

7 MS. EVANS: What is the
8 recommendation of the Chair for the
9 Committee on Community Development?

10 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
11 Committee on Community Development, I
12 recommend final passage of Item 7-A.

13 MR. JOYCE: Second.

14 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
15 call, please?

16 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.
17 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.
18 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
19 MR. ROGAN: Yes.
20 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.
21 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
22 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.
23 MR. JOYCE: Yes.
24 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.
25 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare

1 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.

2 MS. KRAKE: 7-B. FOR CONSIDERATION
3 BY THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT -
4 FOR ADOPTION - RESOLUTION NO. 10, 2013 -
5 AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND OTHER APPROPRIATE
6 CITY OFFICIALS TO EXECUTE AND ENTER INTO A
7 CONTRACT WITH ABSTRACT ENTERPRISES INC., 628
8 SPRUCE STREET, SCRANTON, PA 18503 TO PROVIDE
9 REAL ESTATE TITLE SEARCHES FOR APPROXIMATELY
10 TWENTY (20) TO SIXTY (60) PROPERTIES
11 SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION OF HAZARDOUS
12 STRUCTURES THROUGH SCRANTON'S OFFICE OF
13 ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (OECD)
14 DEPARTMENT.

15 MS. EVANS: What is the
16 recommendation of the Chair for the
17 Committee on Community Development?

18 MR. ROGAN: As Chair for the
19 Committee on Community Development, I
20 recommend final passage of Item 7-B.

21 MR. JOYCE: Second.

22 MS. EVANS: On the question? Roll
23 call, please?

24 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. McGoff.
25 MR. MCGOFF: Yes.

1 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Rogan.
2 MR. ROGAN: Yes.
3 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Loscombe.
4 MR. LOSCOMBE: Yes.
5 MS. MARCIANO: Mr. Joyce.
6 MR. JOYCE: Yes.
7 MS. MARCIANO: Mrs. Evans.
8 MS. EVANS: Yes. I hereby declare
9 Item 7-B legally and lawfully adopted.
10 If there is no further business,
11 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.
12 MR. JOYCE: Motion to adjourn.
13 MS. EVANS: This meeting is
14 adjourned.
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and
evidence are contained fully and accurately in the
notes of testimony taken by me at the hearing of the
above-captioned matter and that the foregoing is a true
and correct transcript of the same to the best of my
ability.

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CATHENE S. NARDOZZI, RPR
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

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